

Message Text

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61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176171

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, LE

SUBJECT: ICRC IN LEBANON

1. PLEASE INFORM HOCHE OF ICRC IN CONFIDENCE FRIDAY MORNING THAT FURTHER PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF US CITIZENS AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS IS BEING ANNOUNCED IN BEIRUT THIS MORNING, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF US EMBASSY PERSONNEL. WE UNDERSTAND MOST OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL STAFF WILL REMAIN FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THIS TOO COULD CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL HOCHE THAT USG GREATLY APPRECIATES THE LEADING ROLE ICRC IS TAKING IN PROVIDING RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON, AND THAT WITH CONTINUING DEPARTURE OF WESTERN COMMUNITY FROM BEIRUT IT APPEARS TO US THAT ICRC MAY HAVE TO SHOULDER AN EVEN GREATER BURDEN OF LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WEEKS TO COME. WE WANT THEM TO KNOW
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THEY WILL HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT IN THIS ESSENTIAL

HUMANITARIAN MISSION. KISSINGER

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